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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, Lord of the nations, You have magnified Your word above Your Name. As our lawmakers grapple with unyielding problems, give them the wisdom to turn to You for help. Lord, You have promised to supply all of our needs, so give our Senators what they need to meet the complex challenges of these days. May they take risks for the sake of truth and justice as they acknowledge with humility their need of Your abundant blessings. Bless them with a fresh regenerating touch of Your power.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 6, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E.

GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to S. 1323, which is a bill to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit. The time until 12:30 today will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 for our weekly party caucuses. The time from 2:15 until 6 p.m. is also equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Yesterday, I filed a cloture motion on a motion to proceed to S. 1323. This vote will occur tomorrow.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1326

Mr. REID. S. 1326 is at the desk. It is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1326) to implement the President's request to increase the statutory limit on the public debt.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this matter.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

### BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. REID. Madam President, yesterday my distinguished Republican counterpart said the debate over how to avert the looming default crisis is really a debate over what kind of a country we are going to be. I agree. That is certainly true. So will we be the kind of country that protects tax breaks and giveaways for the richest people and corporations while sacrificing seniors and the middle class? That is the America my Republican colleagues have proposed, and those priorities are simply backwards.

Democrats, on the other hand, believe that in a nation where half the country's wealth is controlled by probably less than 1 percent of its people, perhaps that 1 percent should not be exempt from the sacrifices asked of everyone else. If these negotiations will determine what kind of nation we are going to be, they will also determine the character of the Republican Party as well.

Will they be the party who came to Washington to help govern, to craft solutions to the difficult issues facing this Nation in cooperation with patriots on both sides of the aisle or will they be the kind of single-issue, ideological party that walks away from reasonable compromise for the sake of politics? That is the question.

David Brooks, a conservative columnist for the New York Times, was

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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